

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/437,499

Examiner

Gabriel I. Garcia

Applicant(s)

MATSUURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 7/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-26 and 28-42, renumbered as claims 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Part III STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed 7/24/06. Claims 24-26 and 28-42 are being allowed over the prior art of record. Prosecution on the merits is closed in this application.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record teaches different ways of discharging sheets into paper trays, but the prior art of record does not teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other limitations in the claim), an image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of trays for receiving discharged sheets, selectively setting a size of sheets with respect to at least one of the plurality of trays, having an interface which receives print data transmitted from an external device, said print data including image data, tray selection information and size information, and a controller which invalidates the size information in the print data and makes the image forming unit form an image on a sheet of the size set by the operator interface with respect to the selected tray based on the tray selection information, as claimed in independent claim 24. In another embodiment, the prior art of record does not teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other limitations in the claim), an image forming apparatus which discharges printed sheets with respect to each a plurality of destinations comprising a memory which stores layout information of printed sheets, said layout information being capable of being stored with respect to each of the plurality of destinations and indicating an output format of the printed sheets, having a controller which invalidates the layout information in the print data

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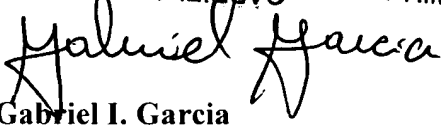
and makes the image forming unit form an image on a sheet based on the layout information stored in the memory with respect to a destination which is designated by the destination information in the print data, as being claimed in independent claims 29 and 36.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. such submissions should be clearly labeled "comments on statement of Reasons for Allowance".

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for this group is 571-273-8300.

CENTRALIZED DELIVERY POLICY: For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the Central FAX number, unless an exception applies. For example, if the examiner has rejected claims in a regular U.S. patent application, and the reply to the examiner's Office action is desired to be transmitted by facsimile rather than mailed, the reply must be sent to the Central FAX Number.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
September 11, 2006